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**Contact:** Lorri Montgomery, Director of Communications  
757.259.1525  
[lmontgomery@ncsc.dni.us](mailto:lmontgomery@ncsc.dni.us)

## Judicial Educator Receives Top Award from National Court Organization

**Williamsburg, VA** (April 16, 2007) – Diane E. Cowdrey, director of education for the Administrative Office of the Courts, Salt Lake City, Utah, is the recipient of the 2006 Distinguished Service Award, one of the highest awards presented by the National Center for State Courts (NCSC). The Distinguished Service Award is presented annually to a person who has made longstanding contributions to the improvement of the justice system and who has supported the mission of the National Center.

Robert Baldwin, NCSC vice president and general counsel, recently presented Dr. Cowdrey the award at a ceremony in Moab. “Dr. Cowdrey’s work in the area of judicial education has had a huge impact, not just in Utah, but nationwide,” Baldwin said.

Dr. Cowdrey is an active member of the National Center for State Courts’ Institute for Court Management Advisory Council and a key contributor to ICM’s eLearning Curriculum for the Courts project. She has reviewed a number of eLearning programs for ICM, bringing a unique combination of court and adult education experience to the process and helping ICM deliver better online courses. She has also served on an NCSC advisory committee for the Trial Court Judicial Leadership Program and on an editorial board for the publications program.

Dr. Cowdrey has been director of education for the Utah AOC for 15 years. In that role she is responsible for a comprehensive educational program for state judges and court staff. She is a member of the National Association of State Judicial Educators, currently serving on the board of directors as a Western Region director and a member of the Education Committee. In 2006, she received the amicus Curiae Award from the Utah Justice Court Board. Dr. Cowdrey earned her doctorate in education from the University of Georgia and holds a B.S. in social work from Ohio State University.

The National Center for State Courts, founded in 1971 by Chief Justice of the United States Warren E. Burger, is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the administration of justice and provides leadership, research, technology, education and training to the state courts. The National Center also is taking the lead on several key issues facing the justice system. For example, The National Center is working to improve public trust and confidence in the courts, reform the judicial selection process, develop a model policy on public access to court records, and to improve pro se litigation. The National Center is headquartered in Williamsburg, Va., and has offices in Washington, D.C. and Denver, Colo.

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